

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 23-28 are pending. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

At the outset, the PTO is requested to update its records to reflect that claims 23-38 are pending. The Office Action only indicates that claims 23-37 are pending. Claim 38 was presented in the Amendment filed August 17, 2004.

Claims 23-37 (38) were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 30-39 of commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 6,691,708. Although Applicants do not agree with the rejection, submitted herewith is a duly executed Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the rejection. The filing of a Terminal Disclaimer is not an admission of the propriety of the rejection, per MPEP 804.02.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

It is also requested that the Examiner return a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 15, 2003 citing several related U.S. applications, at least one of which has matured into a U.S. patent as hand marked on the form.


In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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